

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Applicants elect with traverse Group III (claims 10-21) for examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

To satisfy their duties of candor and good faith, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner related subject matter in Application Nos. 10/548,712; 10/554,367; 10/577,940 as well as Patent No. 6,635,763. The Examiner is invited to consider their prosecution histories and the prior art of record in those applications, which are accessible through the PTO's Image File Wrapper (IFW), in view of the Federal Circuit's holding in *McKesson Information Solutions v. Bridge Medical*, 82 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2007). To avoid duplication of those materials in the PTO's records, reference to the IFW is encouraged but Applicants would submit copies of these materials for the Examiner's review if she prefers. Return of an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 listing the published applications and issued patent is requested to confirm their consideration.

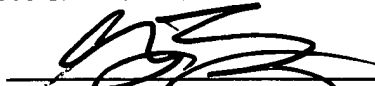
Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application. Thus, claims 1-9 and 22-24 should not be withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if additional information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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